CLAIMS:

1.   Method of providing contour information related to images, comprising the
steps of:
          obtaining a set of interrelated images (I_1, I_2, I_3), (step 26),
          segmenting said images, (step 28),
5   extracting at least two contours (10, 12, 14) from the segmentation, (step 30)
          selecting interest points ($J_1 - J_{12}$) on at least some of the contours, (step 32),
          associating, for said extracted contours, interest points (J) with corresponding
          reconstructed points by means of three-dimensional reconstruction, (step 34),
          projecting the reconstructed points ($P_1 - P_{12}$) into each image, (step 36), and
10   linking, for each image, reconstructed points that are not projected at a junction point
          between different contours or their projections to each other in order to provide a first
          set of links, (step 38), such that at least a reasonable part of a contour of an object can
          be determined based on the linked points.

15   2.   Method according to claim 1, wherein the step of linking in the first set of
links comprises only providing links between reconstructed points or their projections
associated with the same contour.

3.   Method according to claim 1, where the interest points comprise junction
20   points (J), where a junction point is provided at a location where two contours border each
other.

4.   Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of combining, for a
contour, the links in the first set of links provided in relation to each image for obtaining at
25   least a reasonable part of a complete contour of an object (step 40).

5.   Method according to claim 4, wherein the step of combining comprises only
combining the links to points that have less than three links.

6.   Method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of discarding, for
each image, at least some of those reconstructed points or their projections to which links are
provided from more than two other reconstructed points or their projections.

7.   Method according to claim 1, wherein the step of linking comprises linking,
for each image, reconstructed points that are projected at a junction or their projections to
reconstructed points or their projections in a second set of links.

8.   Method according to claim 1, wherein the reconstructed points that are
projected at a junction in a majority of the images or their projections are linked in the first
set of links.

9.   Method according to claim 1, wherein the reconstructed points are provided in
a three dimensional space.

10.   Method according to claim 1, wherein the images are provided in a two
dimensional space.

11.   Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of determining the
actual motion of contours from image to image before projecting reconstructed points into an
image.

12.   Method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of coding the
images, (step 42), where the information about the linked reconstructed points is used in the
coding.

13.   Apparatus (16) for providing contour information related to images,
comprising:
          an image obtaining unit (18) arranged to obtain a set of interrelated images, and
          an image segmenting unit (20) arranged to segment said images, and
          a contour determining unit (22) arranged to:
          extract at least two contours from the segmentation made by the segmentation unit,
          select interest points on the contours of each image,

associate, for each extracted contour, interest points with corresponding reconstructed

points by means of three-dimensional reconstruction,

project the reconstructed points into each image, and

link, for each image, reconstructed points that are not projected at a junction between

5   different contours or their projections to each other in order to provide a first set of

links, such that at least a reasonable part of a contour of an object can be determined

based on the linked points.

14.   Computer program product (44) for providing contour information related to

10   images, comprising a computer readable medium having thereon:

computer program code means, to make the computer, when said program is loaded in the

computer:

obtain a set of interrelated images,

segment said images,

15   extract at least two contours from the segmentation,

select interest points on at least some of the contours,

associate, for said extracted contours, interest points (J) with corresponding

reconstructed points by means of three-dimensional reconstruction,

project the reconstructed points into each image, and

20   link, for each image, reconstructed points that are not projected at a junction point

between different contours to each other or their projections in order to provide a first

set of links, such that at least a reasonable part of a contour of an object can be

determined based on the linked points.